

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

First and foremost – this month we try our new meeting place at the Golden Corral on University Ave. If you show up at Ryan's and find no one there – head west on University Dr for a few miles. Golden Corral is in the north side of the street between Waffle House & Verizon and across the street from Newk's Café.

DX'ing has taken a back seat this month. It started with an email invitation from Robby Sperr at Gigaparts to showcase and sell the line of Apache Labs SDR radios at a booth in Dayton. This will be Gigaparts' first foray to Dayton, actually the booth will fly the Apache Labs banner and a uniformed sales agent will be there from the store to process sales.

About the radios. Remember last month's program by Steve AI4QR on the FlexRadio's Signature Series Direct Digital Sampling radios? These radios feature very similar front ends - a high performance A2D samples the entire spectrum and passes it to a big FPGA for processing. The interested reader will find lots more information online about this radio architecture.

So with 4 weeks before Dayton I begged off my planned ride & dormitory stay with a DX club foursome from previous years, and picked up a loaner ANAN-200D and high performance laptop from Gigaparts to learn about the radio firsthand.

One of the key things about these radios is they're NOT plug & play. Extensive software on the computer must be installed, configured, and optimized by the user. Nationally, Neal Campbell K3NC is offering different levels of paid support for various lengths of time to help get users up to speed. Gigaparts will be heavily promoting this service.

I subscribed to the Apache Labs Yahoo Group to begin soaking up as much as possi-

ble. The radio and Power SDR were working together quickly enough and each evening saw me gaining more experience with the system. However it wasn't until a 2 hour phone call with Neal where he took remote control of the computer to configure & optimize settings that it really started to shine.

This is written about a week before Dayton and each evening is spent working with the radio. Many of you might be wondering how it might perform as a contest or DX radio. My opinion here is that PowerSDR needs some work before the ANAN radios are ready for either due to a few simple but easily fixed shortcomings. For instance, switching antennas requires one to go into a menu. In the heat of battle, that's a killer.

I follow a Kenwood TS-990 Yahoo Group with a casual eye to topic and author. Last week I was surprised to see Rob Sherwood NCOB mention in that group that he's using the ANAN-200D so I emailed him privately asking his opinion. His reply a few hours later was a suggestion for a phone call. It was a real pleasure to spend 28 minutes on the phone with the guru of independent lab testing. Rob's comments: 1) Rob used the radio in the 160 Stew Perry contest and found the default CW & Buffer settings terrible but later tweaking made the filter response excellent. 2) The radio seems to be performing to its advertised specs. 3) He's disappointed (directed to all radio manufacturers) that they're still using 13V rails for 100W power amps (poor TX IMD). 4) Due to a busy travel schedule Rob will complete and post his measurements on the -200D sometime in July. 5) Rob's plans for Dayton seem very full with lunch & dinner meetings with numerous executives of large & small radio manufacturers. He mentioned he has no time for any of the evening banquets.

From the President (cont'd from page 1)

So far I've had one aw shucks moment with the radio, or should I say my station. After working with Neal and getting the record function working (too much noise in Dayton so we'll play back 55 kHz of pre-recorded spectrum), I was casually listening to 20m phone about 10PM. There was 9K2GS loud as ever working the world. Suddenly he changed to calling only for low power stations. Couldn't resist the urge to bag an already worked station with this new radio so I joined the fray. Took about 10 calls and got a 57 report. I noticed while tidying things up later that the ONLY antenna connected to the radio was the Beverage. Probably should go out to see if the binocular transformer and termination resistor are still intact.

Bill Bathgate, who has more than 2 years of experience with PowerSDR will also share some booth time in Dayton and has been a tremendous help in bouncing ideas and questions during this experience.

73,

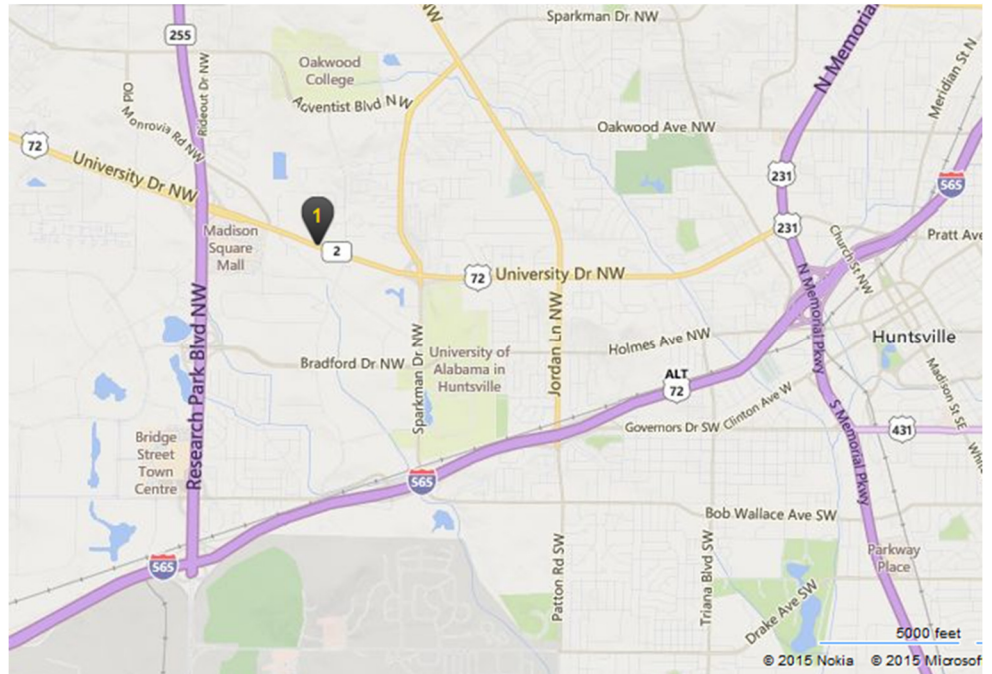
Mark N4BCD

May Program—FLDIGI By Dave Freese, W1HKJ

The digital side of ham radio is considerably more varied than 5-level baudot code. Come hear FLDIGI's father Dave Freese talk about it. Business meeting begins at the Golden Corral at 7:00, with the program at 7:30, but get there around 6:00 pm for dinner. See you next Tuesday!



Map to our New Meeting Place—Golden Corral



If out of habit you head for Ryan's on Tuesday, you'll probably not find an NADXC meeting. We've moved to the

Golden Corral, at 4920 University Drive. Same time, different place.

W1AW Worked All States

Many club members enjoyed last year's ARRL Centennial celebration with the activation of W1AW in each State & Territory. This award arrived in the mail April 27.



April Meeting Minutes

Notes by Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Secretary/Treasurer

Meeting opened by Mark Brown, President. We had 22 in attendance with 1 additional guest.

DX Worked by club members etc.

- Bruce Smith got AC4G got V6Z, (on 160M & 80 M CW)
- Bob Friend got K1N via LOTW confirmed
- Gary Agranat WA2JQZ got D4C Cape Verde, A71BX, Qatar
- Bob De Pierre K8KI got PQ0T, CZ1eu, FW5JJ, V6Z, SU9VB, VJ0XG, ZL7E
- Steve Werner AG4W got C21
- Bill Bathgate KD8IGK got 9H90B-Malta, HB0/SP7VC - Liechtenstein
- Bob Suggs KB5EZ got Navassa, COCOS, Juan Fernandez, Aland Island, Reunion Island (JT65)
- Gary Suckow W9GSM got Samoa on 10M, BTW Gary is a new NADXC member and won the SSB Rookie Round up contest last month.

Announcements:

I am pleased to announce membership is up AGAIN! Our count now is 52 members. We currently have 44 dues paying memberships with 8 of those as family memberships. We had budgeted \$465.00 in 2015 membership income and we now have \$794.00 in revenue, almost a 60% increase in income over last year (with three of those multiyear memberships).

We have started selling Hamfest Banquet tickets, we have a good start this early in the cycle. The web site was updated during April so you can order tickets on line, I will not be in town for the meeting in May but will make sure someone can get you a ticket at the meeting.

Ron Schaeffer N4VM was contacted on possible maintenance on our repeater equipment. He will report back to us shortly. There have been reports

of pops and crackles in the audio signal. I have not heard any update on this yet.

Our April Program:

Steve Conklin AI4QR a member of our club presented, a program on the new Flex Radio technology. It was impressive, Steve has the latest technology from Flex Radio at his disposal and he tests much of the newest features in the software that those of us mere mortal could only dream of.

Treasurer's Report

Current Bank Balance - May 1, 2015 report

Beginning Balance - 4-1 ... \$ 4,032.87
Deposits (dues and banquet tickets\$ 867.36
Withdrawal (Group Card for Melanie Winter) \$ 4.99
Ending Balance - 4-30,,,,, \$ 4,849.51

Club Requests for DXpedition Support

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

For member information and research, below are two emails received by our club requesting funding. From the Treasurer, "There is \$400 budgeted for DXpedition support. So far this year we have disbursed \$200 to K1N, leaving \$200 for future expenditures. It would be prudent for us to wait until after the Hamfest Banquet to decide on additional disbursement."

From: Ross Forbes
<K6GFJ@COMCAST.NET>

Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 1:30 PM
Subject: Chesterfield island 2015 DXpedition Request for Support

Dear Fellow DXer:

In January we sent a number of e-mails seeking support for our current project, activating Chesterfield Island by a team of 12 operators, October 1 - 12, 2015. For many reasons, e-mails end up in spam folders, or not delivered at all.

Preparations for the DX-pedition are progressing very well. We have a team of highly qualified operators who will be on the air 24 hours a day with six stations. Our license application was approved, we will use the call sign TX3X. Elecraft is loaning six complete stations (K3 and KPA500) for the DXpedition. Antennas are provided by N6BT. You can find more information about the organizations already providing their support for TX3X DXpedition on our web site: WWW.TX3X.COM.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/	Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The team is paying their own travel and living expenses to and from New Caledonia. Our DX-pedition requires a boat which is our major expense, over \$100,000(USD). We charted the working yacht Evohe which has a proven record including trips to Kermadec Islands, Campbell Island and Mellish Reef. Not only do we get an experienced (and safe) skipper, we're using the most cost effective boat available.

Attached is a summary of our planned DX-pedition, we are seeking support from your organization and other DX foundations and clubs, worldwide. Please consider joining those organizations and individuals who have already made or committed a donation. Our goal is for the DX community to cover 50% of the total cost, with the team members covering the other half.

73,
Ross, K6GFJ
Member, Chesterfield DXpedition team

Club Requests for DXpedition Support

(cont'd from p. 3)

Palmyra 2016

From: jpater@aol.com Apr 30
at 8:07 PM

[http://www.palmyra2016.org/images/
banner4-1000.350.jpg](http://www.palmyra2016.org/images/banner4-1000.350.jpg)

Dear Fellow DXers:

Have you heard the recent announcement? After many months of negotiations with US Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy, the Palmyra Island DXpedition Group has been awarded permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll. Palmyra ranks in the top ten of the Most Wanted List and #2 in Europe.

Co-leaders Craig K9CT and Lou N2TU, have formed a very experienced, highly qualified team of 12 operators. They plan to operate five stations over a 14 day period, 160 to 6 meters on all modes. The callsign will be announced at a later date.

As with other DXpeditions of this magnitude, this is an expensive adventure. Location, transportation, island costs, and other logistics make this costly. Critical to major DXpeditions is the immediate, up-front commitment costs. Before the DXpedition begins the equipment must be secured, all pre-tested, and shipped to Hawaii where it will then be organized for forwarding to Palmyra. We are requesting financial support from the DX community. We ask that you present this request to your club membership for consideration, and we sincerely appreciate any help your club can provide.

Clubs that contribute over \$500 will see their logo on the QSL card, and their logo will be on all presentations that will be shown worldwide. All contributions are also listed on our website.

Procedures for making donations can be found at www.palmyra2016.org. You may also contact our treasurer, Craig Thompson K9CT craig@k9ct.us

for assistance. More information can be found on the website, which will be continually updated.

We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in advance for your consideration and financial support.

Janet W8CAA and Joe W8GEX, Fundraising coordinators for the Palmyra Team

Additional info from email:

Team members include Craig K9CT, Lou N2TU, Jerry WB9Z, Tom ND2T, Mike K9NW, Ralph KOIR, John K6MM, Bob K4UEE, Hal W8HC, Dick W3OA, Jim N9TK, and Glenn W0GJ.

Date and duration of operation: 11 to 26 January 2016

Ranking on Most Wanted Survey: #9

Logistics and transportation costs: \$198,700

Number of operators and credentials: Leaders are Craig K9CT, and Lou N2TU. Craig is a veteran of many of the "Most Wanted" DXpeditions. He co-led St. Maartin and Swains and operated from Conway Reef, Midway, Cocos Island, Wake Atoll and Amsterdam Island. Lou was a member of the Swains Team and led the Wake Atoll Commemoration. Craig and Lou have both just returned from the Navassa Island K1N DXpedition.

Other team members: Ralph KOIR, Bob K4UEE, John K6MM, Craig K9CT, Mike K9NW, Lou N2TU, Jim N9TK, Tom ND2T, Glen W0GJ, Dick W3OA, Hal W8HC, and Jerry WB9Z. All are well known in the DX community and are experienced veterans of many high profile DXpeditions.

- Number of stations on the air: 5
- Bands and modes: 160 to 6, all modes

- Equipment: antennas, radios, amps, etc.: We anticipate using K3 transceivers and KPA 500 amps, higher power amplifiers on low bands. We are limited to vertical antennas and will use four SteppIR Verticals and SVDA verticals for 17 and 20. We will also have a BCS for 160m.
- LOTW log submissions: We will upload to early donors right after the DXpedition. All others will be uploaded after OQRS have been fulfilled and then the remainder within six months.
- Website with logos of club sponsors: <http://palmyra2016.org>
- QSLs with logos of club sponsors will be included for those donating greater than \$500
- On-line logs & pilot stations: We will upload to Club Log during the DXpedition. Pilot stations will be selected by November 2015.
- Up front cost to each operator: \$10,000 plus travel to Honolulu
- Support by NCDXF & other clubs: NCDXF \$20,000; INDXA \$2000
- Previous operations by same group: See credentials above
- Valid license and DXCC approval: Yes
- Donation address: USA and/or Foreign:

Through the website, or make check payable to Palmyra Island DXpedition and mail to:

Craig Thompson K9CT
1603 N. Holiday Lane
Trivoli, IL 61569-9643

Stateside and/or QSL manager:
Craig Thompson K9CT
1603 N. Holiday Lane
Trivoli, IL 61569-9643